

Tracking Song - Name

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 19 Oct 2009

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5500>

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O'Donnell, Tim BOSI — 19 Oct 2009, 14:29

Hello,

I am reading through old, old archives at the moment and came across speculation as to where Cim Glowing as a name could have come from.

Sample post:

<http://www.urth.net/urth/archives/v0005/0348.shtml>

Living as I do with a botanist I took to looking through her books to see if I could pinpoint a botanical source.

The flower "Cymbidium" has many variations, one is known as the Snow Orchid or sometimes the Snow Court:

<http://www.sborchid.com/plantdisplay.php?ocode=CYM10811>

I thought it was a good match for the following description:

When I was born my father wished to name me Seven Snows, which is a common name for girls among our people. But I was born while he was away in his boat; and before he returned, my mother had left her bed and seen the Cim blowing from tree to tree like a soft star in the air, and completed the naming.

I could see how if the flowers were blown loose they would resemble soft stars blowing in the wind.

Interestingly, the flower seems to be native to the Himalayas which would provide some support for this post:

<http://www.urth.net/urth/archives/v0005/0348.shtml>

which suggests that the setting for Tracking Song could be "India-with-snow".

Any thoughts?

Tony Ellis — 20 Oct 2009, 08:24 · follows O'Donnell, Tim BOSI

Cymbidium is certainly an interesting discovery, Tim.

But notice that Cim gets a capital C, like a proper noun - something that has always bothered me. That, and the fact that it resembles 'a soft star', rather than 'soft stars', makes me think that 'the Cim' must be a single thing rather than something multiple like snowflakes or flowers. I used to think it was the aurora borealis, but 'soft star' seems a bit of a stretch for that, too.

I wonder if the Cim is a moon or other planetary body, and 'blowing from tree to tree' is meant poetically. After all, the sun doesn't cha-cha, but we still talk about it 'dancing in the trees'.